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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 32 | Min 19 | Humidity 28% Clear with periodic clouds Sensex 72,152 | Nifty 21,930 | Gold 62,475 | Silver 70,250 | Dollar 82.98 | Euro 89.36 | GBP 104.78

Why homebuyers opting for houses/flats on resale must ensure sellers have paid property taxes or arrears

DO THE HOMEWORK

BBMP had reclassified zones resulting in a hike in property tax

| Y Maheswara Reddy
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Are you planning to buy or sell a home or a flat in a resale transaction? If so, you have to think twice before finalising the deal to avoid property tax arrear complications. The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike has begun issuing demand notices to owners to pay arrears of property tax.

So, those who bought homes on resale are compelled to pay the penalty or interest on property tax arrears if sellers, who opted self assessment scheme (SAS), had failed to pay the property tax as per the norms.

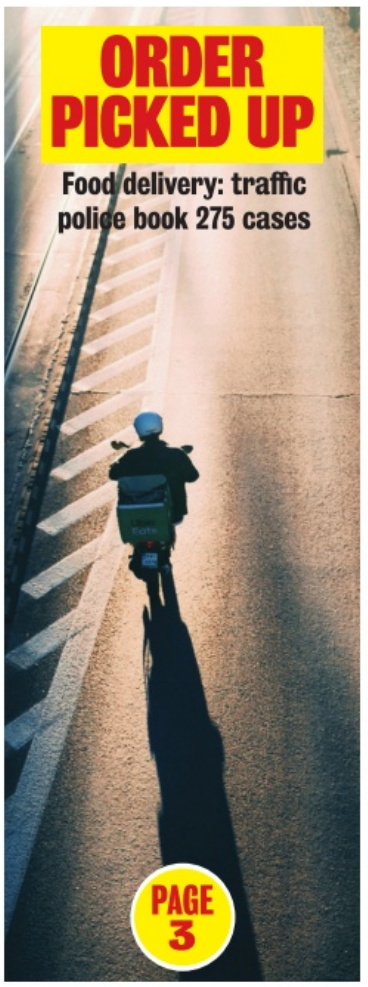
Property owners, who opted for SAS, have been paying the property tax as per the old zonal classification rates since 2016-17.

The BBMP had reclassified zones resulting in a hike in property tax. If a residential or commercial

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

AUGUSTO LOPES/UNSPLASH

> "I bought the flat in 2023, but the BBMP is demanding that I pay the property tax arrears of Rs 34,000 for past seven years
> — Jitendranath Ghosh, homebuyer



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Edge over Competition				
Features		+28 VENUE SX(O)	-23 BREZZA ZXi+	-18 NEXON FEARLESS + S
V	Vibrant Design			
	Dark chrome front grille	✓	✓	✗
	Chrome finish outside door handles	✓	✗	✗
	Ambient lighting	✓	✓	✗
E	Exceptional comfort & Convenience			
	Power driver seat - 4 way	✓	✗	✗
	2-step rear reclining seat	✓	✗	✗
	Power Windows - Driver side auto up-down with safety	✓	✗	✗
	Puddle lamps	✓	✗	✓
	Auto healthy air purifier	✓	✗	✓
	Front map lamps	✓	✓	✗
	Leather wrapped gear knob	✓	✗	✗
	Lane change indicator	✓	✗	✗
N	Next level technology & Connectivity			
	60+ Bluelink features	✓	✓	✗
	Sounds of nature	✓	✗	✗
	Home to car (H2C) with Alexa & Google Voice Assistant	✓	✗	✗
	Firmware Over-the-Air (FOTA) update	✓	✗	✓
U	Uncompromised Safety			
	Cornering lamps	✓	✗	✗
	Brake Assist System (BAS)	✓	✗	✗
	Vehicle Stability Management (VSM)	✓	✗	✗
	Telematics switches (SOS, RSA & Bluelink)	✓	✗	✗
	Automatic headlamps with escort function	✓	✗	✓
	Speed sensing auto door lock	✓	✗	✓
	Tyre pressure monitoring system (Highline)	✓	✗	✓
	Impact sensing auto door unlock	✓	✓	✗
	Level 1 ADAS	✓	✗	✗
E	Exciting Performance			
	Diesel Engine Advantage	✓	✗	✓
	7-Speed DCT	✓	✗	✓
	Paddle shifters	✓	✗	✓
	Drive mode select (normal, eco, sport)	✓	✗	✓

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3 THINGS TO DO

01 Action replay

Grab the chance to attend an interesting Kannada (with English subtitles) play, Project Darling, which is going to be staged this Sunday. The play is directed by Sharanya Ramprakash and presented by Prakash Raj. It is a humorous and incisive examination of female sexuality at the crossroads of censorship and culture.
Where: Jagriti Theatre; When: Sunday, February 11; 3:30 pm and 7:30 pm

02 Musical gesture

Pancham Nishad and Grace Foundation are organising an event to celebrate the birth centenary of late Indian classical music legend Padmabhushan Pandit CR Vyas. The event will feature renowned vocalists like Ganpati Bhat, Bharathi Prathap, Jayateerth Mevundi, Shaswati Mandal and Venkatesh Kumar.
Where: Chowdiah Memorial Hall
When: February 11; 3 pm onwards

03 Talks on football

If you are a football enthusiast then don't miss this chance, as Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, the living legend of Manchester United, is set to make history with his first-ever tour to India, curated by Zomato Live. Get ready for an evening where Ole spills the beans on his extraordinary stint, both on and off the field, sharing exclusive insights and reminiscing about the glory days. **Where: ITC Gardenia, Ashok Nagar; When: February 9**

Valentine's Day special: Spread love, not litter

As Valentine's Day nears, environmental activists in city raise concern regarding plastic packaging of roses and inadequate disposal of both flowers and plastic sheets

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Activists say that it is important to dispose flowers correctly, as flowers and ferns should be disposed of in wet waste, and any wraps and ribbons should be recycled or reused

Valentine's Day is often accompanied by the exchange of gifts, with roses being one of the most iconic symbols. However, the conventional practice of gifting roses, especially those encased in plastic packaging, raises environmental concerns. The organisation Beautiful Bharat in the city is raising a campaign to avoid the use of plastic-wrapped flowers and is reaching out to the public and vendors by raising awareness.

The two most important aims of the campaign are the #Plastic-FreeFlowers awareness campaign Beautiful Bharat started in 2018: the use of banned, harmful items in bouquets and improper disposal as mixed waste. The aim is for everyone to understand what is right to use or not, so next time they give or get a bouquet, it has no banned plastic and is disposed of correctly.

Odette Katrak, founder of Beautiful Bharat, said, "Plastic sheets and ribbons are banned, yet florists add them because apparently customers prefer them. I learned from wholesale flower vendors in Lingarajapuram that wholesale roses come in bundles wrapped in white corrugated paper, which they remove to do individual plastic wrap. Also banned are shiny foil wraps and NWPP sheets, which are colourful fibre-like sheets. What we'd like everyone to do is understand and choose wisely, and also spread the word to friends and florists." She added that we can all go back to natural bouquets without the plastic suffocating both the flowers and the planet. And it is also important to dispose of them correctly, so flowers and ferns should be disposed of in wet waste, and any wraps and ribbons should be reused or recycled.

"It's sad that the day after Valentine's Day, Women's Day, etc., we see any number of bouquets just dumped as is, on roadsides or dustbins. Our disposal awareness aims that the bouquets should have a happy ending whether or not the romance did," she explained. The environmental toll of plastic-wrapped roses is that most plastics used in flower packaging take hundreds of years to decompose. The persistence of these materials in the environment exacerbates pollution and has far-reaching consequences for ecosystems, soil, and water quality.

Katrak said, "The main issues are in the giving of flowers on special events like Valentine's Day or Women's Day, where bouquets are given. There is the use of plastic sheets, and there is also improper disposal of bouquets, and this only goes to landfills."

> **"Plastic sheets and ribbons are banned, yet florists add them because apparently customers prefer them** – Odette Katrak, founder of Beautiful Bharat

Furthermore, she stressed proper waste management because the city waste should be segregated properly. "The flower leaves should go into wet waste, and the wrapping of the flowers should go into dry waste. What we come to know from lots of apartments is that people put them directly in the bin. People can even take out the flowers and put them in water, which lasts for a long time. The bouquet should not be dumped," she mentioned.

Beautiful Bharat has made amazing progress since 2018 with our partnership with BBMP and marshals. The best approach is a combination of citizen volunteers and enforcement by officials in the years 2018 and 2019. "We want the officials to get this back this year, as after covid it has been dormant. Now every florist has lots of plastic sheets, and enforcement needs to be carried out at the earliest," she added.

Expect some road closures and diversions today

In preparation for the Chief Minister's Janaspandana Programme scheduled for Thursday, at Vidhana Soudha, significant road closures and diversions have been announced by the authorities.

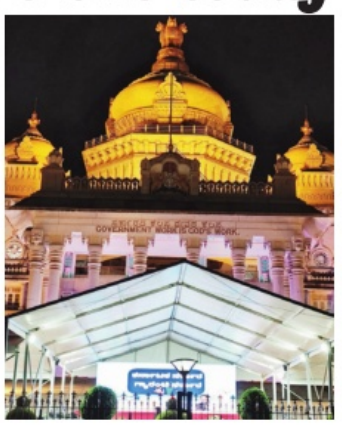
The measures are aimed at ensuring smooth traffic flow and security during the high-profile event.

According to official notifications, the road from Kengal Hanumanthaiah Statue to Gate No. 04 of Vidhana Soudha will be closed to traffic today as well. The public is urged to utilise alternate routes during this period. Vehicles coming from D Devaraj Urs Road will be diverted towards AG's Circle, MS Building, and Dr BR Ambedkar Veedi with a left turn. Similarly, vehicles approaching from Chalukya Circle will be redirected in front of the CID Office Maharani Circle Upper Ramp, followed by a left turn at KR Circle on Dr Ambedkar Veedi/City Civil Court.

Additionally, parking restrictions will be enforced around Vidhana Soudha on February 8 from 6:00 am to 7:00 pm. Prohibited parking areas include both sides of Dr BR Ambedkar Road, Rajbhavan Road, Palace Road, D Devaraj Urs Road, and Sheshadri Road.

However, alternative parking options have been provided to accommodate people like Scouts & Guides Parking Place, Palace Road, Jnana Jyothi and Bangalore University parking place, Central College, Freedom Park, and Palace Ground.

— BMB



Traffic rule crackdown on delivery executives

RIGHT WAY TO GO?

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In a special drive against food delivery partners, the traffic police have booked 275 cases and have collected fines amounting to Rs 1.3 lakh.

MN Anucheth, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic), said that since delivery personnel are often prone to violating traffic rules to meet their delivery deadlines, the special drive was put into action to ensure they are disciplined.

Kuldeep Kumar R Jain, DCP (Traffic East) said that the drive was taken out to ensure the lives of delivery personnel are also safeguarded by their adherence to traffic rules and increased responsibility.

A traffic police wishing to remain anonymous said that delivery partners are often found breaking traffic rules such as one-way driving, jumping signals, and riding their two-wheelers rashly. He added that they also resort to riding on footpaths, endangering the lives of pedestrians.

According to a study by the NCAER, real wages of gig workers across cities have seen a significant drop despite the volume of orders being increased and food-tech platforms improving their unit economics in the past few years

On the other hand, activists in the field believe that while enforcement of rules is very much necessary, the problem needs to be viewed from a systematic lens.

"We (delivery partners) work on deadlines that are close to unachievable in Bengaluru's traffic, leaving us with no resort but to break the set norms. It must not be considered a mere choice but a coercion by companies that set these unattainable timelines.

We must also attain a certain set of deliveries to be able to qualify for incentives, making many reckless to achieve the goal," a gig delivery worker wishing not to be named said, adding that despite all the consequences, they barely make the minimum wage.

Suman Das, a member of the All India IT & ITeS Employees' Union (AIITEU), has consistently stressed that gig workers have to work a minimum of 12 hours to ensure they earn the minimum wage.

He stressed that there is an urgent need for the government to create an employer-employee relationship between the e-commerce platform and the gig worker, so that they are protected under existing labour laws.

According to a study by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), real wages of gig workers across cities have seen a significant drop despite the volume of orders being increased and food-tech platforms improving their unit economics in the past few years.

The survey involving 924 food delivery workers found that the real wages of gig workers have decreased by 11% to Rs 11,963 per month in 2022 in comparison to wages from 2019 due to a rise in fuel costs and consumer price inflation.

Activists welcome EC order to keep kids off election activities

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Child rights activists have welcomed the Election Commission of India's zero tolerance towards using children in any manner during the Lok Sabha elections scheduled for April or May. The Election Commission has directed political parties and candidates to desist from engaging children in election-related campaigns and other activities.

The Election Commission directed District Election Officers and Returning Officers to refrain from involving children in any capacity.

"District Election Officers and Returning Officers shall bear personal responsibility for ensuring compliance with all relevant acts and laws pertaining to child labour. Any violation of these responsibilities by election machinery under their jurisdiction will result in severe disciplinary action," said Election Commission of India Joint Director (Media) Anuj Chandak in a circular issued on February 5.

He said that all political parties and candidates are required to ensure strict compliance with the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, as amended by the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016.

The directive extends to the use of children to create the semblance of a political campaign in any manner including use through poem, songs, spoken words, display of insignia of political party or candidate, exhibiting ideology of political party, promoting achievements of a political party or criticising the opponent political parties or candidates.

"However, the mere presence of a child accompanied by his/her parent or guardian in proximity of a political leader and who is not involved in any election campaigning activity by the political party will not be construed as a violation of the guidelines," Chandak said in the circular.

Welcoming the directive, Nagasimha G Rao, Director of Child Rights Trust said the authorities should take measures to prevent use of children. "Wearing a cap or holding a flag of a political party gives children a thrill but it is a violation of child rights," said Rao.

Renni D'Souza, a child rights activist, said involving children in election-related activities is a violation of child rights. "We have already informed state election officials about using children during the elections. I hope the Election Commission's order creates awareness among the political parties," said D'Souza.

Stating that participation of children in election activities creates animosity among them, Kalakappa B Sangannavar, Project Coordinator of Child Rights Trust said this would disturb harmony in rural areas.

Police collecting evidence against hockey player, to approach him to join probe

Bengaluru Police probing rape charges against Indian national team Hockey player Varun Kumar said they are collecting evidence, scanning through Call detail records, messages and voice notes exchanged between him and the alleged victim as part of the ongoing investigation.

The police would soon be approaching the 28-year-old to join the probe, they said.

"We are investigating the case and are collecting the required evidence. We have not approached Kumar yet. He is out of Karnataka, so we will be contacting him soon to join the probe. We have not sent any teams to his place where he is currently undergoing training. If he comes, fine, or we will have to send our team there," a senior police officer told PTI.

"We have already started collecting evidence. We are scanning through messages exchanged between the victim and Kumar, the voice notes, call detail records. We would also be approaching their mutual friends to record statements," he said.

Kumar has been booked under the stringent POCSO act by the Bengaluru Police after a woman accused him of sexually abusing her multiple times when she was a minor.

The 22-year-old, in her complaint filed on Monday, said that she came in contact with Kumar in 2018 through Instagram, and the player raped her on multiple occasions promising her of marriage when she was 17.

She said Kumar was training at the Sports Authority of India (SAI) centre in Bengaluru when she met him.

Kumar, who got the Arjuna award in 2021, was recently promoted as a DSP in Punjab Police.

"Based on the complaint received from the woman, we have registered a case on Monday against the Hockey player under appropriate section of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act and sections 376 (rape) and 420 (cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property) of the Indian Penal Code," a senior Bengaluru Police officer said on Tuesday. **PTI**

Diligent efforts underway to safeguard underpass

BBMP intervenes to address vital culvert maintenance at Panathur railway underpass, aiming to avert flooding in future; land acquisition issue solved

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The drainage construction has been a joint effort, with the railways handling one portion and the BBMP RI team taking charge of the part under their jurisdiction

In a significant step towards improving the infrastructure in Panathur, the South Western Railways (SWR) and KRIDE successfully completed the construction of the Panathur railway under bridge (RUB) first vent in May 2023. While the completion of the bridge was a milestone, challenges in land acquisition hindered the progress of the approach road and drain work. The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Roads and Infrastructure (BBMP RI) Department has now stepped in to address these issues.

The BBMP has taken up the crucial culvert work at the Panathur RUB to prevent future flooding, a problem that became apparent during heavy downpours a few months ago. The drainage construction has been a joint effort, with the railways handling one portion and the BBMP RI team taking charge of the part under their jurisdiction. This collaborative approach aims to mitigate the flooding risk and improve overall connectivity in the area.

Clement Jaykumar, member of the Mahadevpura Task Force, emphasised the importance of completing the culvert work. He stated, "Once the culvert work is completed, it will prevent flooding during the rains. The Panathur RUB was not aligned properly, and in order to connect it, the access road connection should be completed." Jaykumar also addressed the previous land acquisition challenges, mentioning that they have now been resolved.

> **"The Panathur RUB was not aligned properly. Once the culvert work is completed, it will prevent flooding during the rains** – Clement Jaykumar

Residents of Panathur have been patiently awaiting relief from traffic congestion at three bottleneck points: S Cross Road, Panathur RUB vent, and T Junction. The completion of work at these stretches is crucial for easing the daily commute of Panathur residents. The initial progress includes the demolition of acquired buildings at S Cross Junction and the commencement of culvert work at Panathur RUB.

With the demolition of buildings at S Cross Junction, many residents are facing extremely slow traffic movement. However, they are patient, as only the demolition of buildings could help widen S Cross, ultimately improving traffic flow.

The completion of the culvert work is expected to pave the way for connecting access roads, addressing a crucial aspect of the Panathur RUB alignment issue. Once these projects are finalised, Panathur residents can anticipate a significant reduction in traffic congestion at the identified bottleneck areas, marking a positive turn in the infrastructure development of the region.

'Reduce road tax on tourist buses in Karnataka'

Road activists suggest Karnataka to follow Kerala's proposal of cutting taxes on buses with all-India tourist permits

Kerala govt has reduced the road tax on tourist buses by 30 per cent and announced a tax exemption to avoid migration of registrations

In the Kerala state government budget, a proposal has been made to cut taxes on buses with all-India tourist permits (AITPs). The move has come as a major relief for inter-state tourist-bus operators from the state, as at present, vehicles that must be registered in the state of Kerala often opt to be registered in states like Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh as their taxes are significantly lower in comparison. Such a phenomenon impacts a state's revenue generation as it means losses in terms of registration tax as well as fitness test fees.

"The Kerala state government has reduced the road tax on tourist buses by 30% and announced a tax exemption to avoid the migration of registrations to other states. If our state also follows this, the bus owners of Karnataka can work to avoid registration of more than 2,000 buses in other states," said K Radhakrishna Holla from the Karnataka State Travel Operators Association, adding that it would also help generate revenue for the state.

Tourist bus owners with national permits will receive a discount of Rs 1.2 lakh on their annual tax, according to the Kerala budget proposal. National permit buses with regular seats are currently taxed at Rs 2,250 per seat for three months. Under the latest budget provision, this will be cut to Rs 1,500. Buses with push-back seats are currently taxed at Rs 3,000 per seat for each quarter. The government proposes to reduce this to Rs 2,000. The tax on sleeper-berth buses has been reduced from Rs 4,000 to Rs 3,000 per berth.

Paying notice to the number of tourist buses with a national permit registered in the state being minute, the Finance Minister of Kerala, KN Balagopal, has proposed the move. While proposing in his budget speech, the minister noted that tourist bus operators take advantage of the new rules implemented by the central government and ply across the state while registering in states that have a relatively lower tax rate. The minister also added that a quarterly tax will be collected from those tourist buses that have been registered in other states but move around in the state of Kerala regularly. — BMB

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Save this lake

Sarjapur

Halanayakanahalli Lake (off Sarjapur Road), which is home to many different species of birds, is in a state of neglect with sewage, garbage, and construction debris being dumped in.

Remove it soon

Kodihalli

This abandoned car has been lying here for months on 1st Main Road, Kodihalli, off 80 Feet Road, HAL 2nd Stage. It should be removed as soon as possible.

Illegal parking

RT Nagar

Two-wheelers are illegally parked on the footpath in front of MEDAX Hospital, Sultanpalya Main Road, RT Nagar, forcing pedestrians to use the busy road and posing a danger of accidents.

Weather watch: Bengaluru hots up

Mercury goes up, soon to touch 34 degrees C, reminding us of upcoming summer

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Day time temperature in the city touched 33.1 degrees celsius on Tuesday

While many areas in north India are still reeling under cold, Bengaluru seems to be already stepping into summer. According to the latest Namma Karnataka weather update, "The day time temperature in the city on Tuesday touched 33.1 degree celsius which was three degree celsius above normal. Looks like summer is almost here and the temperature may rise soon to 34 degree celsius."

A Met department official elaborated on the weather in the city. "In Bengaluru, we usually feel the cold till Sankranthi and beyond that the day time temperature goes up. However, now one can still feel that morning chill in the city but the Mercury goes up with the Sun. However, as per the tradition, the real summer starts after Shivarathri (March 8 this year). However, by Ugadi (April 9 this year), the pre monsoon showers hit the city and cooled down a bit. Then, the arrival of the South West Monsoon is anticipated which will cool down the city's temperature with overcast skies," said the official.

All attention is now focused on the upcoming 2024 South West monsoon, especially after last year's monsoon proved to be nearly disastrous. However, there is optimism surrounding the forthcoming monsoon, as indicated by Skymet weather forecasters. "El Nino appears to have passed its peak, with the Nino 3.4 index, representing the

> **In Bengaluru, we usually feel the cold till Sankranthi and beyond that the day time temperature goes up. One can still feel the morning chill now** –Expert

Oceanic Nino Index (ONI), showing a contracted anomaly for the second consecutive week. It is anticipated to diminish and transition towards neutral El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) by the end of the spring season in the Northern Hemisphere. Similarly, the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) has dropped below the positive threshold, with further decline expected. The Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) is also weakening and is projected to become neutral over the next fortnight," Skymet said.

According to the weather forecasting company, there are gradual changes in the Nino indices across the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean, aligning with the typical transition from El Nino to neutral conditions. "Although ocean waters tend to retain warmth for an extended period, atmospheric indicators are weakening faster than anticipated. The probabilistic ENSO forecast suggests an irregular pattern, with a shift from a strong El Nino to a potential La Nina by the end of the year, resembling the pattern observed in 2016. The Indian Ocean Dipole index has remained positive since August 2023 but has recently declined, signaling a potential breakdown of the event," Skymet said.

Meanwhile, the Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) has moved eastward from the Maritime Continent to the Western Pacific, increasing the likelihood of tropical cyclone formation over the Southern Pacific, they said.

The private weather forecaster predicted that the transition from El Nino to neutral conditions, followed by the potential development of La Nina within the same year, is an intriguing aspect. While this may bode well for the South West monsoon in the Indian context, it's essential to consider other global parameters that impact monsoon health when assessing its prospects.

'Drunk' ex-Army man shoots at acquaintance

When asked to not enter man's house, accused pulls out licenced fire arm

A former Indian Army officer was apprehended by authorities after allegedly firing a shot at a man, allegedly in a state of intoxication during the early hours of Tuesday. The Army man was arrested and legal proceedings were initiated at Gangammana Gudi Police Station.

The accused Parashuram is said to have paid a visit to the house of Suraj, in Abbigere, at around 1 am on Tuesday. Suraj prevented Parashuram from entering, citing previous instances of his inebriation-induced confrontations. Parashuram brandished his licensed firearm at Suraj, prompting the latter to flee. The bullet discharged harmlessly, striking a wall instead. Subsequently, neighbours intervened and pacified Parashuram, while Suraj promptly alerted law enforcement. Responding officers from Gangammana Gudi Police Station arrived, arresting Parashuram and confiscating the firearm.

Following Suraj's formal complaint, authorities registered a First Information Report (FIR) against Parashuram under the Arms Act and IPC Section 307 for attempted murder.

In his statement, Suraj revealed a longstanding acquaintance with Parashuram's family. Parashuram, who lives alone in Abbigere, allegedly frequented their home under the influence of alcohol, engaging in disputes. **BMB**

Uninvited guests in khaki at apartment

Residents of Puttenahalli apartment building get shock of their life when policemen barge in at night bringing along construction machinery, fail to provide reason

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In a shocking turn of events, a Police Sub-Inspector (PSI) from Puttenahalli police station, along with 10 policemen, allegedly barged inside an apartment building with construction machinery at HM Tambourine Apartment in the city at 11:30 pm.

Residents of the apartment complex were left bewildered as the officers failed to provide a clear explanation for their actions. The PSI claimed he was acting under the authority of a DCP order but was unable to produce a copy of the said order when questioned by the residents.

"The officer along with other policemen came at night and threatened the security guard. The guards were scared to see the policemen so he let them in. They came with construction vehicles so many residents of the apartment complex came downstairs and started questioning them. The sub inspector said that he had the orders but when asked to show the order he didn't show the document. The people that came started construction but after half an hour of arguing the police finally left," a resident told BM.

The incident has sparked outrage among citizens, raising questions about the state of law and order. Many are questioning the legality and necessity of such actions, especially when conducted late at night without proper documentation.

Concerns have been raised about the lack of transparency and accountability in police actions, with residents demanding a thorough investigation into the matter.

"This is unfortunate to see police trying to help builders at midnight when residents are sleeping. Where is the law of the land? Why can't they do the work in the morning without disturbing the residents?" tweeted Karnataka Home Buyers Forum regarding the incident. The police is in cognizance of the matter and they tagged DCP South on X to look into the matter. BM contacted DCP south and the PSI concerned but no details were given by the time of publishing.

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- Content Writers
- Data Analysts
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- UI Developers
- IT Managers

Preferences will be given to the candidate having experience of working in universities
Salary no bar for deserving candidates
AT FOLLOWING LOCATIONS
HYDERABAD : Saturday, 03rd February 2024 at ITC Kakatiya Hotel, Address: 6-3-1187, Begumpet, Hyderabad - 500016 Time: 11:00 am - 4:00 pm
BENGALURU : Sunday, 04th February 2024, at JW Marriott Hotel, Address: 24/1 Vitthal Mallya Road, Bengaluru- 560001 Time: 11:00 am - 4:00 pm
CHENNAI : Saturday, 10th February 2024, at The Leela Palace Chennai Address: MRC Nagar, Raja Annamalai Puram, Chennai, Tamil Nadu Time: 9:00 am - 2:30 pm
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SC Collegium takes a pick for K'taka HC

The Supreme Court Collegium, headed by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, on Wednesday recommended the appointment of Justice NV Anjaria as the Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court.

Justice Anjaria was appointed as a judge of the Gujarat High Court in November 2011 and has been functioning there since then.

Before his elevation, he practised in the high court in civil, constitutional, company law, labour and service matters and specialised in civil and constitutional cases.

"He is a competent judge with a sound knowledge of law and possesses impeccable integrity. In his conduct as a judge he has maintained the standard required of a person holding high judicial office," the SC Collegium said.

"The Collegium is of the considered view that Mr Justice N.V. Anjaria is fit and suitable in all respects for being appointed as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Karnataka," it added.

The vacancy in the office of the Chief Justice of the Karnataka HC would arise consequent upon the retirement of Justice P.S. Dinesh Kumar on February 24.

In a statement on the website of the apex court, the Collegium said it proposes to appoint Justice Anjaria with effect from the date on which the incumbent Chief Justice demits office on retirement. The Memorandum of Procedure relating to appointment of Chief Justice of a High Court provides that "a fair representation shall be given to High Courts for selection of Chief Justices. **–IANS**

Change of Name

I Rahmath Ulla Sami S/o Sami Ulla Residing at No.1895, Devanga Street, Near Mutton market, Nelamangala, Bangalore Rural Disrict - 562123, stating that, my name is Rahmath Ulla Sami in Aadhaar Card and all the documents. But my name is wrongly mentioned as Rahamath Ulla Sami in the passport. So please rectify my name as **Rahmath Ulla Sami** in the passport (No.G7455165). In future any problem arise, I only the responsible. The above said information is true & correct. Therefore, I have filed an affidavit before Notary and Lawyer R. Lakshminarayana, Nelamangala on 06.02.2024.

K-Valley dream still far off from being reality

As officials inspect project, though it is taking shape a lot more needs to be done

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

The Koramangala waterway project is still progressing at a sluggish pace. According to the latest update, efforts are underway to construct a sewage treatment plant (STP) with a capacity of 5 MLD at Kumbaragundi to purify the water flowing in the rajakaluve. Officials have been urged to expedite this task to ensure timely completion.

Meanwhile, an encroachment has been identified near Wilson Garden on Bannerghatta Main Road along the Rajakaluve. Officials have been instructed to survey the land and remove the encroachment. Despite ongoing efforts, sewage continues to be discharged into the Rajakaluve near Shantinagar bus stand.

However, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) faces hurdles in constructing a 15 MLD capacity intermediate sewage pumping station as KSRTC that owns the land is yet to hand it over.

However, significant progress has been made in other areas of the project. Desilting and cleaning of the bottom layer have been completed at many locations, ensuring smoother water flow and improved water quality. Additionally, the project design incorporates measures for groundwater recharge by allowing water to seep into the ground.

Construction of retaining walls on both sides of the Rajakaluve is well underway, with lower level walls nearly finished. Plans are in place to install decorative lights and granite fixtures along the walls to enhance aesthetics, along with grills for horticultural and pedestrian pathways. The bridges connecting both sides of the Rajakaluve are nearing completion.

Moreover, modern transformers are being installed to power the lights, ensuring adequate illumination and safety along the waterway.

Officials inspect the work on Wednesday

The K-100 project, stretching across 9.5 km and allocated a budget of Rs 175 crore, was envisioned to replicate the achievements of the Sabarmati riverfront but, its current condition paints a starkly different and grim picture

Additionally, pipelines are being laid on the service road to prevent rainwater from flowing into the Rajakaluve, reducing the risk of contamination and overflow. Chambers are also being constructed to facilitate cable laying.

During her inspection of the works, Additional Chief Secretary cum Development Commissioner Shalini Rajaneesh emphasised the importance of expediting the process to meet project deadlines. She conducted inspections along the stretch between KR Market and Bellandur Lake, covering 9.2 km, to oversee progress and address any challenges encountered along the way.

The K-100 project, stretching across 9.5 km and allocated a budget of Rs 175 crore for upgrades, was envisioned to replicate the achievements of the Sabarmati riverfront development. However, its current condition paints a starkly different picture, resembling nothing more than a conduit for sewage. The Koramangala-Challaghatta valley plays a critical role in the city's water flow system. During monsoon, sewage mixes with the watercourse, eventually reaching Bellandur Lake – infamous for exceeding permissible pollution levels and notorious for its froth generation. The ongoing project involves installing dedicated sewage pipelines to prevent the mingling of rainwater and waste.

Notable enhancements have been made to the Rajakaluve walls near BMTC and KSRTC central station, Shantinagar, using granite stones. A pathway has been laid, with plans for ornamental plantings and the construction of a pedestrian footbridge. However, several elements, such as the Church Street-inspired pedestrian path, flanking parks, decorative lighting, and round-the-clock surveillance, are yet to commence. Despite these advancements, activists raise concerns that the BBMP has deviated from adhering to NGT norms during project execution.

The project was inaugurated by the then Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa in 2021. A private concessionaire is responsible for implementing the project on a build, operate, and transfer basis, including maintenance for first five years. BBMP officials say the works will involve providing and remodeling existing retaining walls at critical locations to facilitate the waterway project. This will be followed by the construction of a European-styled pathway (modeled after Church Street).

According to this plan, the drains will be transformed into hangout places. Currently, the Rajakaluve presents a neglectful scene, with sewage, debris, and other waste accumulating in the drain for decades. Encroachments are evident in some areas.

RAJAKALUVE DETAILS

Total area of sub-catchment	32 sq km
Micro watersheds	32
largest microwatershed	3.92 km
smallest microwatershed	0.19 km
total length of the drain	28.06 km
primary drain length	11.4 km
secondary drain length	16.6 km

Property tax check on resale homes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

property is situated in E or F zone and the area is upgraded (reclassified) as D or E (from E to D and from F to E) zone, the property owners have to pay more than the property tax they used to pay under the SAS.

It is the responsibility of the BBMP revenue inspectors to issue notices to the property owners who are bound to pay the property tax arrears. They should not accept property tax for the current year till the arrear amount is cleared. This initiative will help the homebuyers who bought resale homes recently.

For example, Jitendranath Ghosh and Madhuri Ghosh bought a resale flat at Majestic Residence apartment complex at Tavarekere on June 28, 2023.

Ghosh availed the copy of property tax receipt for the year 2023-2024 from the seller and submitted it to sub-registrar while registering the sale deed. On September 7, 2023, he applied for a khata certificate from the BBMP. After availing the khata certificate, Ghosh, a septuagenarian suffering from cardiac and nephrological issues, thought of residing at the flat peacefully along with his better half. But his dream was shattered when the BBMP served a show-cause notice demanding him to pay the property tax arrears from the year 2016-17 to 2022-23.

"I was shocked when I received the notice from the BBMP. I bought the flat in 2023 but the BBMP is demanding me to pay the property tax arrears of Rs 34,000 for seven years. I am surviving on a pension of Rs 23,973. The BBMP authorities must collect the property tax arrears from the seller," said Ghosh.

Ghosh said as he appealed to the BBMP, requesting to do the needful, they slapped one more notice on him that stated he has to pay the arrears.

Karnataka Home Buyers Forum sanchalak Dhananjaya Padmanabhachar said the BBMP must fix the property tax after issuing the khata certificate to flat owners and the post occupancy certificate based on the carpet area of the flat.

"The BBMP authorities are not following the High Court directions and RERA guidelines. I humbly request the BBMP chief commissioner and special commissioner of revenue to read the High Court's orders and RERA guidelines while collecting property tax from flat owners," said Padmanabhachar.

When contacted, the BBMP revenue inspector said the notice was issued to Jitendranath Ghosh as per the norms.

A no dues certificate (NDC), we are told, will be of great help for home buyers. The NDC is like an encumbrance certificate issued by a sub-registrar office.

Protest march against 'injustice' reaches Delhi

CM leads Congress protest against tax devolution by Centre at Jantar Mantar

Top Congress leaders from Karnataka led by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah staged a protest at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Wednesday against the Centre alleging "injustice" meted out to the state in devolution of taxes.

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, several MPs, ministers and MLAs from the state took part in the protest.

The Congress alleged that "injustice" has been meted out to Karnataka in tax devolution and grants-in-aid over the past few years.

The protesters demanded that the Centre set right the losses to the tune of Rs 1.87 lakh crore allegedly incurred by Karnataka under the 15th Finance Commission.

Siddaramaiah said this protest is not against the BJP but the discrimination against Karnataka.

Dismissing the BJP's allegation that the protest was aimed at raking up the north-south divide, he said the Congress wants the country to be united but there should be no discrimination against the southern states.

"We are raising the issue of discrimination meted out by the government of India to the state of Karnataka and other southern states," Siddaramaiah said while addressing the protesters.

"This is why I had written a letter to all the MPs of the BJP and the JD(S) asking them to participate in this agitation," he said.

The chief minister said the formula used to devolve taxes to the states, especially Karnataka, under the 14th Finance Commission was changed by the 15th Finance Commission and called for reverting to the old formula to stop the loss of revenue for his state.

Congress leaders at Jantar Mantar on Wednesday

He said they would also submit a representation to the new Finance Commission for adopting the formula used by the 14th Finance Commission.

Shivakumar said Karnataka ranks second in Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection and is the biggest contributor to the country's revenue.

"We are asking for our rights, we are asking for our share. The Karnataka government had sought drought relief funds from the Centre but not even a single rupee was given," he said.

"We are the voice of Karnataka. We demand justice," Shivakumar said.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said top leaders from Karnataka protested at the Jantar Mantar to safeguard the interests of the whole state.

"The Prime Minister talks big about 'cooperative federalism', but as usual that is just a jumla. His anti-democratic, anti-people views are evident in the repeated ANYAY to Karnataka, as well as other Opposition-ruled states — drought relief funds denied; food grains denied; projects delayed," he said in a post on X while sharing his statement. **—Agencies**

BJP leaders court arrest as they try to lay siege to CM's office

BJP legislators in Karnataka were taken into preventive custody when they tried to lay siege to the Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's office as part of their protest against the alleged failures of Congress government on Wednesday.

BJP legislators and leaders led by the party state president BY Vijayendra staged a sit-in demonstration in front of Mahatma Gandhi's statue near Vidhana Soudha, which houses the State Legislature and Secretariat of Karnataka. Thereafter, they marched towards the office of the Chief Minister, who was away in Delhi, inside the Vidhana Soudha, prompting police to take them into preventive custody.

BJP leaders outside protest in Bengaluru on Wednesday

The BJP staged the protest to counter the dharna held in Delhi by the ruling party. Holding placards, the BJP protesters raised slogans condemning the Congress government for allegedly failing to offer relief to drought-hit farmers and incentives to milk producers.

Former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, Leader of Opposition in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly R Ashoka, Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Council Kota Srinivas Poojary and many former ministers were among those who took part in the agitation. Addressing the gathering, Bommai said: "there was never any other government, which did so much drama in the history of Karnataka by staging demonstrations at New Delhi against the Centre".

"The government has failed on every count, be it administration, law and order, development works, protecting the water resource of the state and drought management. How can they stage a demonstration in Delhi? They should be ashamed of it," he said.

Davis Cup heroes to headline Bluru Open

Fresh from their Davis Cup win over Pakistan, four Indians including Ramkumar Ramanathan and N Sriram Balaji will be in action in the Bengaluru Open slated to be held from February 12-18.

India's top singles player Sumit Nagal, who opted out of the Davis Cup, will also be seen in action, having earned a direct entry by virtue of his 137th rank. The cut-off for the Bengaluru Open was 257.

At the Australian Open last month, Nagal had knocked out world number 27 Alexander Bublik in the first round of the main draw.

In the doubles, Ramkumar has partnered big-serving compatriot Saketh Myneni, while Balaji has teamed up with Germany's Andre Begemann.

Ramkumar and Myneni won the doubles title in 2022.

World Ranked 78 Balaji and Begeman (WR 201) will be the third-seeded team in the 16-team draw with a combined rank of 279.

Myneni (WR 107) and Ramkumar (WR 210) are the sixth-best team in terms of their combined rank of 317.

The top-ranked team in the event will be of Frenchman Dan Added (WR 91) and Korea's Yun Seong Chung (WR 167). They have a combined rank of 258.

Dan has claimed 11 double challenger titles, winning eight of them last year.

His partner Chung had won the Bengaluru Open doubles event last year with compatriot Yu Hsiou Hsu and would bid for his title defence.

Niki Poonacha (WR 147), who made a winning Davis Cup debut in Islamabad against Muhammad Shoaib, has joined forces with compatriot Rithvik Choudary Bollipalli (WR 159).

They have a combined rank of 306 and will be the fourth-seeded team in the ATP 100 Challenger event, which will be organised by Karnataka State Lawn Tennis Association.

The Indian Davis Cuppers' participation will be an added impetus for the Bengaluru crowd especially after their victory in Islamabad, tournament director Sunil Yajman said in a statement. **PTI**

BM Chill Vibes

Consumer Connect Initiative

Luxury at 30,000 ft: Flight plan takes a premium turn

Plush lie-flat beds, fancy wines paired with gourmet four-course meals served on designer tableware, and luxurious vanity kits - Indian carriers are elevating the luxury quotient for business class passengers.

After two sluggish years due to the pandemic, airlines have not only seen a rousing revival in corporate travel, boosting occupancy in the business class, but also a new class of leisure travellers willing to spend more for extra legroom and other perks.

Deepak Rajawat, chief commercial officer of Vistara, said the debate over whether the pandemic would drive a shift towards work-from-home and reduce business-related travel has been put to rest. "There has been a phenomenal increase in the percentage that we carry in the front end," he said, referring to business class flyers.

Air India, under its new owner Tata group, is seeking to position itself as a world class airline and target more higher-paying customers. On long-haul international routes, the airline's business class passengers will dine in fine chinaware, access a collection of over 2,000 movies on-board and use amenity kits by Italian luxury fashion house Ferragamo.

The airline will retrofit around 40 of these A320 planes with three-class cabins along with premium economy as part of a $400 million upgrade. "We see this incremental opportunity that can support larger premium cabins, both in business class and in Premium

Economy," said Campbell Wilson, CEO, Air India.

Market leader IndiGo, which for long has had a single economy class, is planning to have few aircraft with roomier seats and will roll out perks like hot food and a loyalty programme. By the end of this year, the budget airline plans to have around 35 Airbus A321s fitted with premium cabins which will have four rows of seats with two on each side against the current configuration of three.

IndiGo didn't officially comment on the move. But executives involved in the plan said the airline doesn't want to lose out on high-yielding customers to rivals like Air India and Vistara for the lack of a distinct product. "There is a section of high-end leisure travellers and small business owners looking for a business class product at fares lower than those charged by legacy airlines," said one of the executives.

According to industry estimates, premium cabin passengers, constituting only a third of the total, drive two-thirds of airline revenue.

Air India Express, the low-cost subsidiary of Air India, was forced to induce some aircraft with business class seats due to supply chain constraints. But the airline is seeing increased demand for these.

Travel portals are also responding to this change, with the likes of MakeMyTrip setting up a separate funnel on its website for business class tickets where customers can preview visuals of cabin comfort, meals, lounge access and other amenities.

Rajesh Magow, group CEO of MakeMyTrip, said, "We have revamped this (website) to provide an enhanced booking experience to our premium users and cater to their specific needs and preferences."

By Arindam Majumder, ET Online

Districts put on high alert after tracking of Maoist movement

FILE PHOTO

Following the tracking of movement of Maoists in the coastal and hilly regions of Karnataka, the authorities have sounded high alert in the area.

Sources confirmed that the police and the Anti Naxal Force (ANF) have heightened the vigilance in Udupi and Chikkamagalur districts.

A team of Maoists headed by Vikram Gowda have reportedly come to the Baindur region in Udupi district and parts of Chikkamagalur district from Kerala, the sources said.

The authorities have received information that the Maoist team visited houses in Kollur, Mudur, Jadkal and Belkal villages, carrying weapons with them.

Sources said the Maoists were planning to celebrate the 'Red Salute Day' in memory of Saket Rajan, a prominent Maoist leader killed in an encounter by the Karnataka police on February 5, 2005.

The authorities have been asked to be on high alert for the next five days in these two districts. The ANF has already launched a combing operation to nab Vikram Gowda. **IANS**

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CHANGE OF NAME

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I Vishalamma Hanumanthappa W/O, Ashwathanarayan.k.m Also Known As Ashwath Narayana.k.m R/o Karanala,tubugere Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural-561205 have changed my name to Vishala Hanumanthappa.

I Pawan Kumar Mahesh Ahuja S/O, Mahesh Ahuja R/o Kailash 560 1st Cross Kempaiyah Block 6th Main Road Lower Palace Orchard Sadashivnagar Bangalore 5600003 have changed my name to Pawan Ahuja.

I Naseer Ahamed Shaik S/O, Shaik Abdul Azeem R/o Flat No Sf204 Second Flr Nms Solitaire No 29 4th Cross Bhemanna Layout K B Sandra Bangalore 560032 have changed my name to Nayab Nasir Ahmed.

I Pawan Kumar Mahesh Ahuja S/O, Mahesh Ahuja R/o 560 Kailash 1st Cross, Kempaiyah Block, Lower Palace Orchard, Sadashivnagar, Bangalore 560003 have changed my name to Pawan Ahuja.

I Kavitha Vasantha R/o No. 603/A, 15th Main road, 3rd stage, 1st Block, Manjunatha Nagar, Rajajinagar, Bangalore, Karnataka-560010 have changed my name to KAVITHA P V

I SHAISTA ILYAZ W/o Mohammed ilyaz pasha Samad R/o No: 8, 5th Main Shamanna Garden Bangalore 560026 have changed my name to SHAISTA for all purposes

I, Venkatesh Prasad, residing at No. 526, "Aditya House" , 4th Cross, 2nd Block, R. T. Nagar, Bangalore-560032, have changed my name to Ramaswamy Venkatesh Prasad

I Vijay Kumar Bafna R/o 4133 phoenix One Bangalore West, No-1 Dr Rajkumar Rd Rajajinag -ar, B'luru-560010 have changed my name to Vijay Bafna

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THC TLC FOR PETS

Danish dog owners are medicating their pets with unlicensed cannabis products – is it safe?

Medical cannabis, often in the form of cannabidiol (CBD) oil, is one of the most recent trends in the human health and wellness world. Unsurprisingly, this trend has made its way to our pets, with a recent study suggesting that 38 per cent of surveyed Danish dog owners routinely gave their pets some form of cannabis product.

Because many people actively promote the use of CBD to support their own health and wellbeing, the use of CBD oil for pets is attracting increased attention from vets and pet owners alike.

Previous studies suggest that 80 per cent of dog owners in the US and Canada had bought cannabis products for their pets. While availability and regulatory differences might account for this variance, it is clear that cannabinoids are regularly being given to pets globally.

It is important to note that CBD doesn't contain the psychoactive substance THC (tetrahydrocannabinol) that is responsible for some of the serious effects seen in pets after accidental ingestion of cannabis and derivatives, so its use won't make your pet high or give them the munchies.

But, is CBD safe for our pets and could it be a useful addition to our pet's healthcare regime?

The use of CBD oil by people to support conditions such as chronic pain, migraines, anxiety and epilepsy has led many people to consider its use for their pets, who often suffer from similar conditions.

While anecdotal reports of the benefits of CBD use are typically positive, many studies have failed to find an effect. This means that its value as a potential therapeutic aid remains poorly understood.

However, in line with increased interest in CBD to support human health, research is exploring potential benefits for pets, too, with some interesting outcomes.

CBD oil has been shown to significantly reduce the signs of stress in dogs during travel and separation – two areas of concern for many pet owners.

For dogs suffering from osteoarthritis, CBD oil resulted in increased activity and decreased pain scores, as assessed by a vet. Indeed, 36 per cent of respondents in the Danish study indicated that they used cannabinoids for pain management in their pets. This group also reported high perceived efficacy of CBD in managing their dog's pain.

For dogs with skin irritation as the result of allergy, CBD reduced itching but not skin damage or lesions. In the Danish study, 11 per cent of respondents reported using CBD to help their dog with allergies, and the perceived outcome was good.

While CBD is typically given as drops or oil added to food, hemp-based treats can also be used. Giving CBD-infused treats to pets suffering from noise anxiety, however, failed to show a positive outcome.

In many countries, treating pets with CBD is not authorised or approved. In the UK, only a vet can prescribe a human CBD preparation for a pet.

Cannabidiol is considered a complementary medicine and vets advise that it should not be used in place of proven treatments. CBD could also interact with prescribed drugs in ways that aren't currently known.

Toxicity reports are rare, and healthy dogs appear to tolerate long-term, daily doses of CBD. However, side-effects such as vomiting, diarrhoea, lethargy and difficulty moving have been recorded in dogs. Side-effects in cats include excess licking and salivation, pacing, vomiting and grimacing. We still don't have good safety and efficacy data, and effective dose rates are unclear.

A significant challenge in being able to identify consistent outcomes in CBD use is the variability in quality, preparations and potency of the active ingredient. CBD can also be provided in edible treats, oils and supplements or as topical creams to be applied to the skin. These all have different uses, making outcome comparisons tricky.

There is also the potential for mislabelling and contamination of CBD products, and production and distribution regulation is poor. This can make it difficult for pet owners to make informed, safe and effective choices for their pets.

While the use of CBD for pets appears to be common, the potential downsides and concerns do need to be considered. How much CBD can be safely administered to our pets for effective use across a range of conditions remains largely unknown.

If you are thinking about using CBD for your pet, always speak to your vet in the first instance – they will be able to advise you on the safest and most legally appropriate way to do so.

(By Jacqueline Boyd, Nottingham Trent University, The Conversation)

MIRRORLIGHTS

Odours might prompt certain brain cells to make decisions: Research

Researchers at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus revealed that smells trigger certain brain cells, which may play a role in quick 'go, no-go' decision making.

The proceeding of the research was published in the journal Current Biology. The scientists focused on the hippocampus, an area of the brain crucial to memory and learning. They knew that so-called `time cells' played a major role in hippocampal function but didn't know their role in associative learning.

"These are cells that would remind you to make a decision - do this or do that," said the study's senior author Diego Restrepo, professor at the University of Colorado School of Medicine.

The researchers observed that when mice were given the choice of responding to a fruity smell by licking on a spout that delivered

sweet water, they learned to lick the fruity smell as opposed to the smell of mineral oil.

"They have to associate the odour with the outcome of what they are doing so that's why they learn decision making," said Ming Ma, PhD, a first author of the study and a senior instructor in cell and developmental biology at the CU School of Medicine. "When it's a fruit odour, they lick and get a reward. When it's mineral oil they stop licking." "The more they learned, the more the cells were stimulated leading to more rapid decoding of the odours," said Fabio Simoes de Souza, DSc, another first author of the study. — IANS

All you need to know about...

Skincare essentials

Sun Protection
Taking care of your skin involves various strategies, but the primary and foremost step is protecting it from the sun. A lifetime of sun exposure can result in issues such as wrinkles, age spots, and an elevated risk of cancer. To counteract these concerns, make a habit of wearing sunscreen daily.

Simplified Routine
Navigating skincare involves a multitude of products. However, the key is to tread carefully. Excessive use of products can potentially irritate your skin. Instead, prioritise the essentials. Opt for a gentle cleanser, sunscreen, and moisturiser that suits your skin. Establishing a simple morning and nighttime skincare routine can bring benefits.

Nutritious Diet
A well-balanced and nutritious diet not only helps your overall well-being but also contributes to a radiant complexion. Include plenty of fruits and vegetables in your diet, as they are rich in essential vitamins and antioxidants.

Lip Care
It's essential to have a lip balm with at least SPF 30 handy before heading outdoors. This not only ensures protection against harmful UV rays but also keeps your lips nourished.

Manage Stress
Unchecked stress can heighten skin sensitivity and contribute to issues like acne breakouts. So, prioritise mental health by ensuring an adequate amount of sleep, avoid overwhelming yourself with more than you can handle, and engage in activities you enjoy.

Hands Off Your Face
Throughout the day, your hands come into contact with germs that can transfer to your face if you touch it. Resist the urge to pop or squeeze pimples, as doing so could result in lasting marks on your face. —Femina

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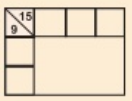
@BangaloreMirror

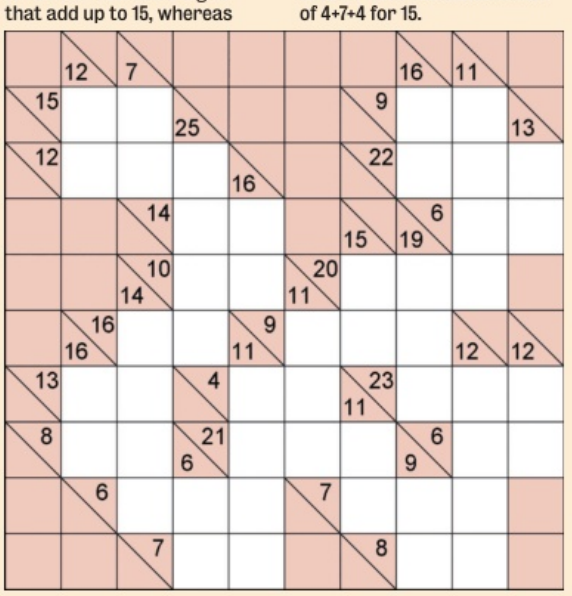
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

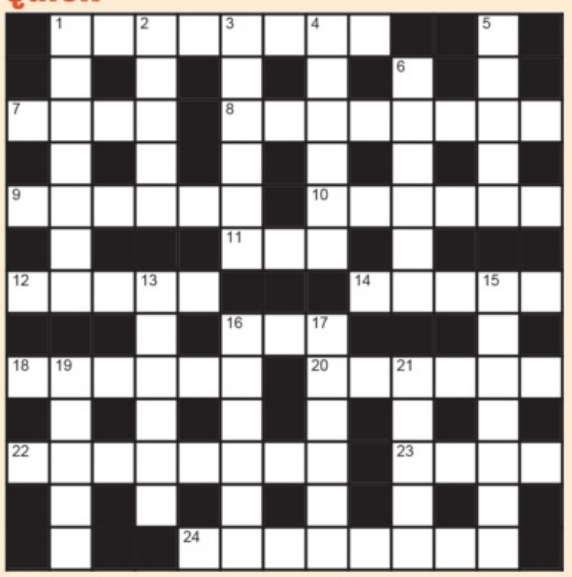


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Certain to succeed (4-4)
7 The sixth letter of Greek alphabet (4)
8 Dealing with (8)
9 Inflammation of the ear (6)
10 Not factual or true; imaginary (6)
11 Interjection used in cheering? (3)
12 At a ___ : at a high cost? (5)
14 Analyse problem etc. in psychological manner (slang usage) (5)
16 Young dog (3)
18 Offensive smell (6)
20 Add or attach to (6)
22 The last month of the year (8)
23 More or less (4)
24 Das Kapital author (4,4)

DOWN

1 Jumper or pullover (7)
2 Cook on dry heat (5)
3 Fixation (6)
4 Get back (6)
5 High-IQ society (5)
6 Coquettes (6)
13 Burnt out piece of coal, etc. (6)
15 Multiplex on Outer Ring Road (7)
16 Unreasonable fear (6)
17 Go the rounds of (6)
19 Lock (5)
21 Turkish title (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: L EQUALS T

GTDYL LUN LQFN ZN LUQPH ZN SGP FGHN NPCB FNNL, BDFNT-DCR FDENB LUN NPCB.

Linemaro

Did you just come out of the oven, because you are hot!

Mindchow

The only thing that interferes with learning is education.

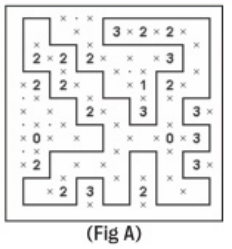
Joke of the day

Q: Why did the belt get locked up?
A: He held up a pair of pants.

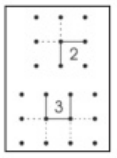
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

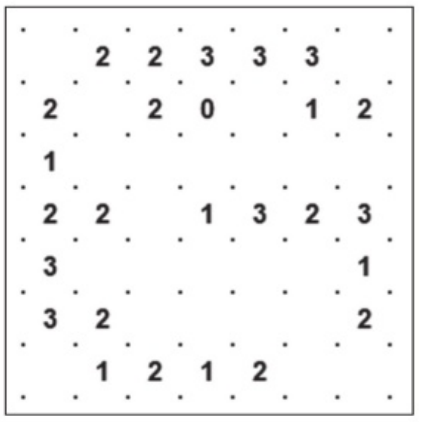


(Fig B) Not Allowed

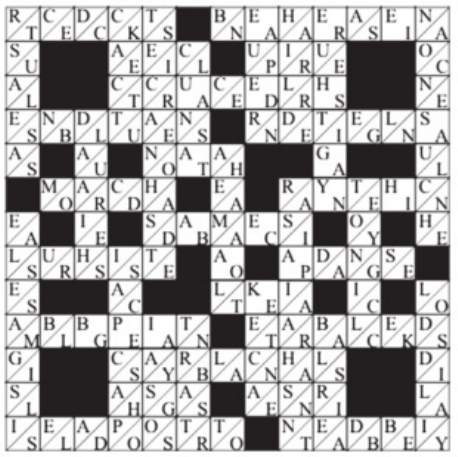
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



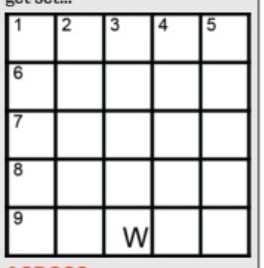
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

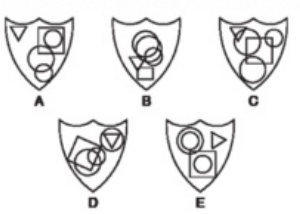
1 Wears; 6 Go vie;
7 Addle; 8 NE Zoo;
9 N West

DOWN

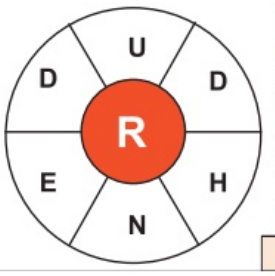
1 Loons; 2 A E Gaz;
3 I'd wow; 4 VE Net;
5 Reeds

Mensapuzzle

To which shield below can a dot be added so that it meets the same conditions as in the shield on the right?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; **05** Good; **07** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

				6		4		
			7		1			8
	9			3			5	2
		3			8		7	6
4		6				3		1
1	2		3			5		
5	7			4			6	
6			2		5			
		8		7				

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 8

2 3 4 5

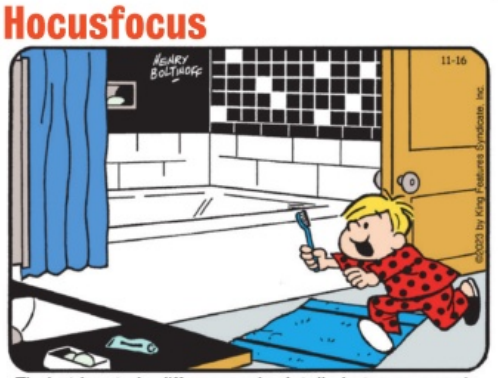
Medium = 24

2 6 8 8

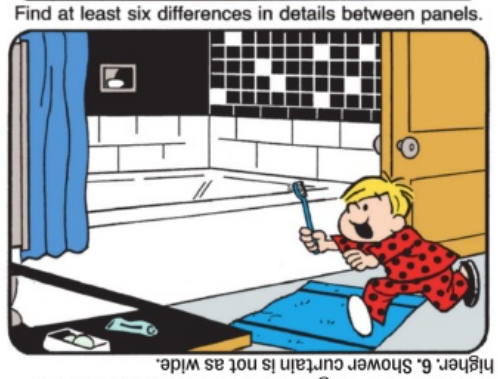
Hard = 36

3 9 9 9

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Leg is moved. 2. Slipper is different. 3. Toothbrush is longer. 4. Sink is wider. 5. Doorknob is higher. 6. Shower curtain is not as wide.

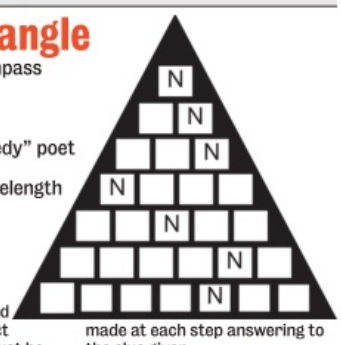
Riddler

When you curtail a word, you remove the last letter and still have a valid word. You will be given clues for the two words, longer word first.

1. Long, deep cut –> Petrol; a state of matter
2. Fabric; textile –> Coagulate; a lump
3. Shrub; low plant with many branches –> Multi-passenger vehicle
4. Low-lying wetland –> A planet

Alpha triangle

1 North on the compass
2 Article
3 Brown hue
4 Tidy
5 "The Divine Comedy" poet
6 Be present
7 On the same wavelength



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip

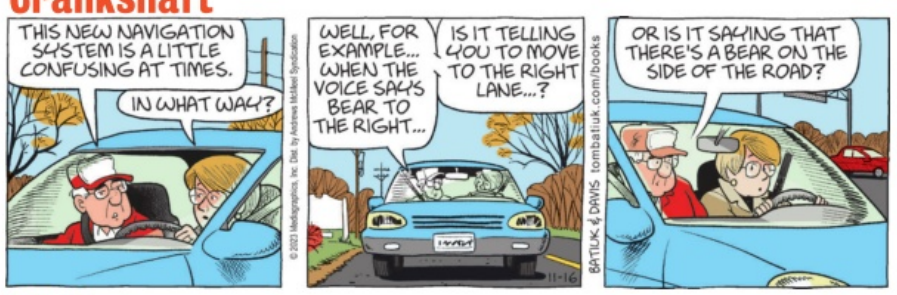
He's quite charming until he has a few drinks and starts challenging everyone to play Whac-a-Mole.
Wayno & Piraro 11-16-23
BIZARRO.COM ©2023 BIZARRO STUDIOS
Dist. by King Features

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

NEXT STOP: THE ART MUSEUM!
GERALD! THIS IS MY STEPDAUGHTER, KAT! IT'S DADDY-DAUGHTER WORK DAY TODAY.
I DID THAT LAST YEAR! I EVEN GOT HER HER OWN BOX OF NITRILE GLOVES.
SAME!!
MUST BE AN ARCHIVIST THING.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2023 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@COMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft


THIS NEW NAVIGATION SYSTEM IS A LITTLE CONFUSING AT TIMES.
IN WHAT WAY?
WELL, FOR EXAMPLE... WHEN THE VOICE SAYS BEAR TO THE RIGHT...
IS IT TELLING YOU TO MOVE TO THE RIGHT LANE...?
OR IS IT SAYING THAT THERE'S A BEAR ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD?
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books

Mutts

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT GUY JUST MOVED AWAY AND LEFT ME ALONE CHAINED IN THE BACK-YARD TO FEND FOR MYSELF.
YOU NEVER KNOW HOW INHUMAN HUMANS CAN BE.
GEE...
HOW DO YOU GUARD AGAINST THAT!?!
mutts.com/GuardDog

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may plan for a change in place; it is advised to postpone the decision related to migration. It is also advised to avoid investing in business. By late evening, the situation may be under control. With the help of good advice from one of the elders, you may control the messy situation.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may have good patience; meditation may help you increase concentration, which will speed up your project. Your subordinates may cooperate with you, which may help you complete the project on time. There may be some short trips related to work. You are likely to meet an influential person who may help you boost your business.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may spend money to buy some creative or artistic artifacts to renovate your house, which may increase your social status. You may implement some new plans in your family business, and it will pay you in terms of gains in the near future. You may also be busy with family or social get-togethers.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today is a good day for you. You may have good vitality and health. You may enjoy your work. Today, this is your challenge to avoid straightforwardness. It is advised to avoid arguments on worthless topics; otherwise, there may be some disputes in the family. Job seekers may find a suitable job. Lovebirds are advised to avoid making arguments on worthless topics.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you are not blessed by the moon. You may feel unhappy, you may become impatient today, and you may find it difficult to perform your task and not be able to fulfill your desire. You want to be detached from the given responsibility. You may not be able to complete any tasks.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you are blessed by the moon. Work-related pressure may go away. Your earnings may be converted into profits now. You are likely to invest for a long time. You may get an overseas work order, which may give you financial benefits in the future. You may find your soul mate. Students may hear good news about their academics.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today you are blessed by the moon; you may perform well in your professional front. You may implement your business plans very easily with the help of your colleagues. Intellectual investments and financial investments may start giving profits now, which may increase confidence levels. You may use your wisdom to gain benefits.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you are blessed by the moon. Your spiritual power may make you happy. Your way of thinking may be positive. You are inclined toward spiritualism today. You may plan to visit a religious place. You may also take an interest in occult science. You are likely to observe flawlessness in your nature. It is advised to keep your views to yourself and try to discuss them with those who may understand your feelings.

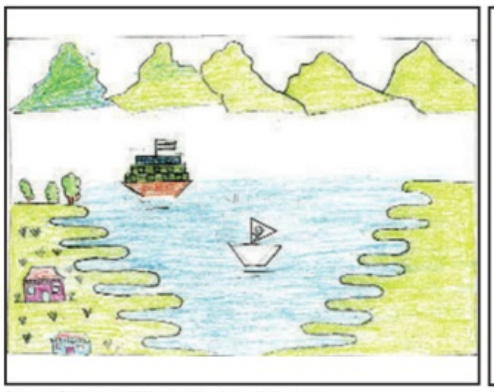
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may feel nervous, you may lack patience, and you may be attracted to the occult. It is advised to follow your intuition before going ahead. You may also gain in-depth knowledge on a subject, or you may have a good focus on your research. Chanting a mantra may help you in this situation.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today you are blessed by the moon, which may help you improve your inner strength. You are likely to get some new opportunities for your business and work, which will pay you in terms of gains in the near future. Couples may hear good news in terms of childbirth. Lovebirds are advised to be clear in their opinions with each other to make their future bright.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today you are blessed by the moon. Things are now under control. Your performance may be praised by your seniors, and you may expect promotions. Money that was stuck is likely to be recovered now, which may help increase liquidity in the business. There may be some good news in terms of legal matters, too. In partnerships, many issues are likely to be resolved now.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may hear good news in terms of a job. Job seekers may be focused on cracking entrance exams with the help of hard work. Singles may hear good news in terms of marriage. Couples may have some good news in terms of childbirth.

KIDZONE



Srinath S Kanavi, 10 Years, Kendriya Vidyalya

Shiloh Shiju, 7 Years, Baldwin Boys High School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
1+24+120=145
145/29=5
m=5^2
= 25

BULL'S EYE
herd, HUNDRED, rend, rude, rune, under

STRIKE OUT

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE
D: so that the dot is in the square and two circles

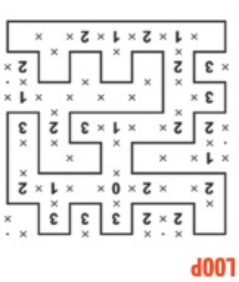
QUOTE UNCODE
About the time we think we can make ends meet, somebody moves the ends.

SUDOKU

3	4	8	6	7	9	1	2	5
6	1	9	2	8	5	7	4	3
5	7	2	1	4	3	8	6	9
1	2	7	3	9	6	5	8	4
4	8	6	5	2	7	3	9	1
9	5	3	4	1	8	2	7	6
7	9	1	8	3	4	6	5	2
2	6	4	7	5	1	9	3	8
8	3	5	9	6	2	4	1	7

ALPHA TRIANGLE
N, An, Tan, Neat, Taste, Attend, Attuned.

LOOP



GO FIGURE
Easy
4 - 3 + 5 + 2 = 8
Medium
2 + 8 + 6 + 8 = 24
Hard
9 x 9 / 3 + 9 = 36

KAKURO

FAST FIVE

S	A	W	E	R
O	G	I	V	E
L	A	D	E	D
O	Z	O	N	E
N	E	W	T	S

RIDDLER
1. Gash -> Gas,
2. Cloth -> Clot,
3. Bush -> Bus,

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Not Poonam — Officials from the Union health ministry stated that actor Poonam Pandey is not under consideration to serve as the brand ambassador for the government's campaign aimed at raising awareness about cervical cancer

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Biscuit mystery

Raghavendra M Naik, who worked as associate director for a few Kannada movies, debuts as a director with Marigold. The movie is bankrolled by Raghuvardhan, who helmed Kannada movies Badri and Gunavantha. The movie's teaser was launched at SRV Theater on Tuesday.

Raghuvardhan said he agreed to bankroll the movie because of its script. "I was impressed when Raghavendra Naik narrated the script. The movie has come out well and I am very happy with its quality. Diganth and Sangeetha Sringeri were very cooperative during the shooting. If all goes as per plan, the movie will be released in the second or third week of March," said Raghuvardhan.

The movie was shot in and around Bengaluru, Sakaleshpur. "The movie is about what happened to four people who sell marigold biscuits. The movie was delayed due to the lockdown and other reasons," said Naik.

He said the movie will be a clean entertainer. "I tried to showcase Diganth differently. Actors attended rehearsals before the shooting," the director said.

Diganth plays a smart scammer in the movie. "I was to act in a movie that did not take off. At that time, the director approached me. I agreed to play the lead because its script is interesting," said Diganth.

Effects of alcohol

Mahesh N, who used to work as choreographer for reality shows, debuts as a producer in Sandalwood by bankrolling Kali Kudukaru. Mahesh also plays the lead in the movie that highlights the effects of alcohol. Mahesh is bankrolling the movie under the AM Creations banner. Its trailer was released at a function held at Renukamba Preview Theater on Saturday.

It is said the movie is about an auto rickshaw driver, a parasite, a real estate agent, and an unemployed youth. Karan Savyasachi has handled the megaphone for this movie. "I wanted to showcase the ill-effects of alcohol and how it affects poor families. An unemployed youth falls in love with a girl from a rich family. A few rowdies kill her after assaulting her sexually. Police, instead of punishing, support those rowdies. How the youth teaches a lesson to those rowdies and the police is the climax of the movie," said producer-cum-hero Mahesh.

He said the shooting of the movie was held in and around Bengaluru. "We are making arrangements to release the movie by this month's end," he said.

Director-cum-actor Nagendra Urs said the title of the movie is interesting. "I play a key role in this movie," said Urs.

When Sunny fell in love

It was when she saw Daniel Weber play music

It was in 2011 when Sunny Leone married her husband and musician Daniel Weber, and the two have been setting relationship goals ever since. The actress revealed that she fell in love with him when she saw him play music.

Talking about Daniel, the frontman of American rock 'n roll band The Disparrows, Sunny very proudly told IANS: "Daniel's music is amazing. He truly is an inspiration. He's so creative, talented, smart and he loves playing. I fell in love watching my husband play music the first time I met him."

She added: "It was so hot, so sexy, he was covered in tattoos. I mean, what girl doesn't like that!"

After six years of marriage, in 2017, they adopted daughter Nisha from Latur in Maharashtra, and then welcomed their sons via surrogacy in 2018.

When not working, Sunny, who has just opened a restaurant, said that she's around her family.

"I love my life and I love what I do... I also love being around my children. The days that I don't feel like working are not usually an option. If I need to work I need to work and those days when I have offs I really do enjoy my time at home, family and spending time with my kids," said the actress, who made her Bollywood debut with 'Jism 2' in 2012. **— IANS**

Life & times of mother

Actor-author Soha Ali Khan says she would love to write a book on the life and times of her mother, veteran actor Sharmila Tagore, even though she has doubts about being the "right person" for the job.

Soha is co-producing a biopic on legal luminary Ram Jethmalani with her actor-husband Kunal Khemu. She has also penned a memoir besides writing multiple children's book with Khemu.

"The Perils of Being Moderately Famous" author said her mother keeps asking about the status of her next book and Tagore would be happy if "I write her biography".

"I would love to. It's so close to home though... When people read them, they will be like 'would they be able to share the grey aspects of this personality because you are their child'.

"So, I can write a story about her but I don't know if it would do justice to all the facets of her personality, and I don't know if I'd be able to share everything about her as a child. Honestly, I would like to tell that story," Khan told PTI.

The "Rang De Basanti" actor said not just her mother, there is a compelling story waiting to be told about her father, legendary cricketer Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi. "There is a wealth of information. There is lots of content," she said, adding that her brother, actor Saif Ali Khan, a voracious reader himself, is another person in the family who can take up that responsibility. **— PTI**

Tom as Romeo on stage

Hollywood star Tom Holland is set to return to the stage with a new iteration of William Shakespeare's "Romeo & Juliet".

Holland, the star of multiple Marvel movies where he plays Spider-Man, will take on the role of the Bard's tragic hero Romeo in the West End production, to be directed by Jamie Lloyd. The play, which will run at Duke of York's theatre for 12 weeks from May 11 to August 3, is described as a "pulsating new vision of Shakespeare's immortal tale of wordsmiths, rhymers, lovers and fighters".

Llyod earlier directed the revival of Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical "Sunset Boulevard", starring Nicole Scherzinger.

"Tom Holland is one of the greatest, most exciting young actors in the world. It is an honour to welcome him back to the West End," Llyod said.

Holland started his journey in theatre as a child artist with "Billy Elliot the Musical" at the Victoria Palace Theatre in London in 2008.

The actor had essayed the role of Michael Caffrey, the best friend of the titular character, in the stage production and later played the main character. Holland was most recently seen in TV series "The Crowded Room". **— PTI**